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AMISH COUNTRY News

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Spring 2016

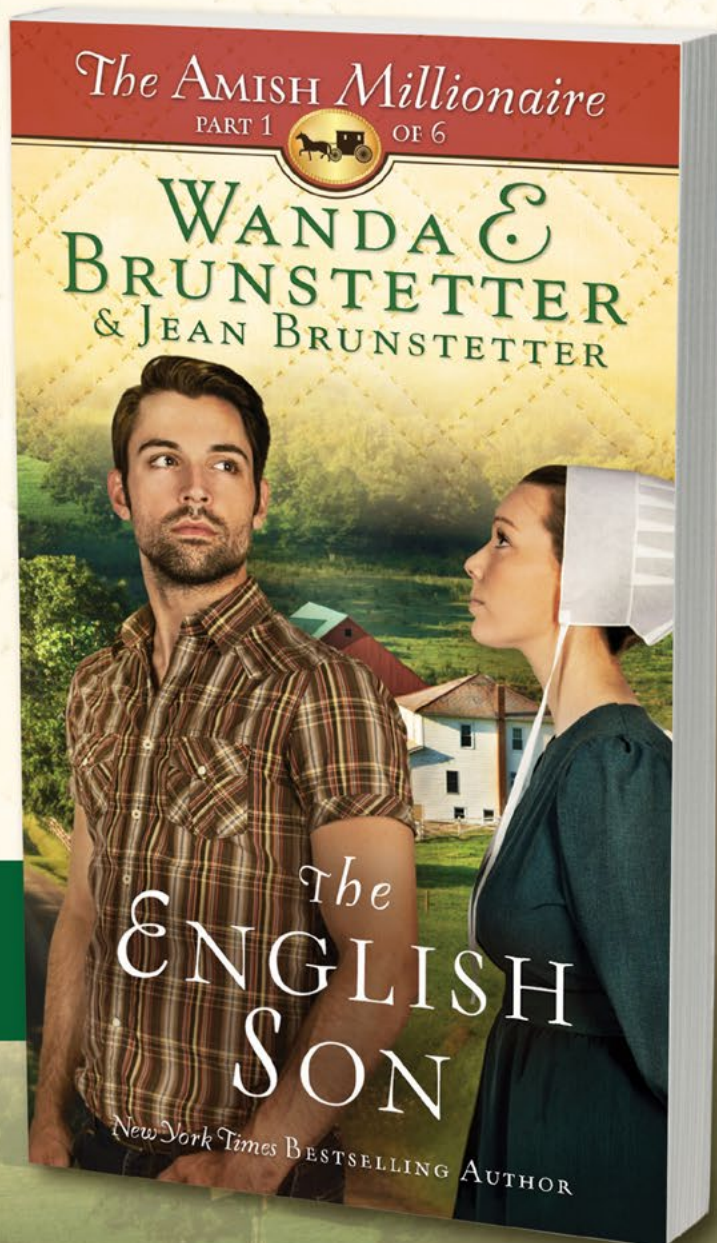
QUILTS & CRAFTS ISSUE

*A Dramatic New
Serial Novel from*

WANDA & BRUNSTETTER & JEAN BRUNSTETTER

*Prodigal son, Joel Byler, has come home.
When will the worldly young man learn
he must pay for his own mistakes—and
at what cost to his Amish family?*

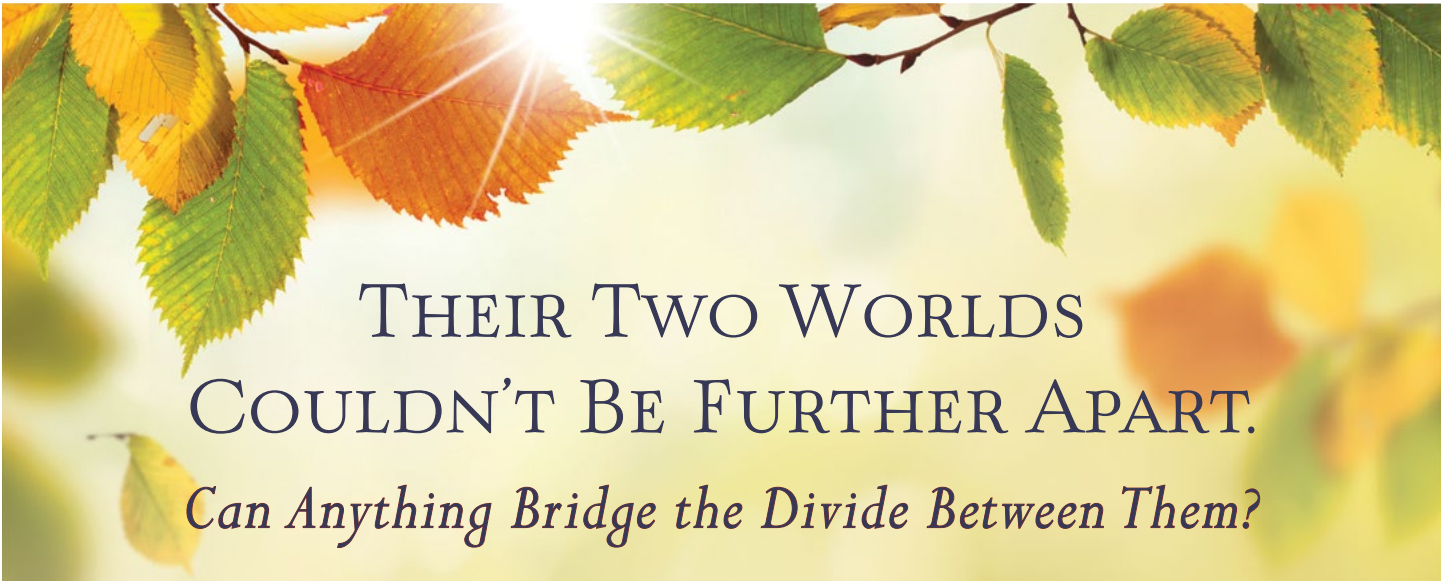
LOOK INSIDE for an Exclusive
Q&A with WANDA and JEAN!



Brad Igou's Amish Series
Amish Myths:
The Telephone

Country Knives
Edged Tool Paradise
For Quilters & Crafters

Riehl's Quilts & Crafts
Authentic Amish Farm
Featuring Handmade Goods

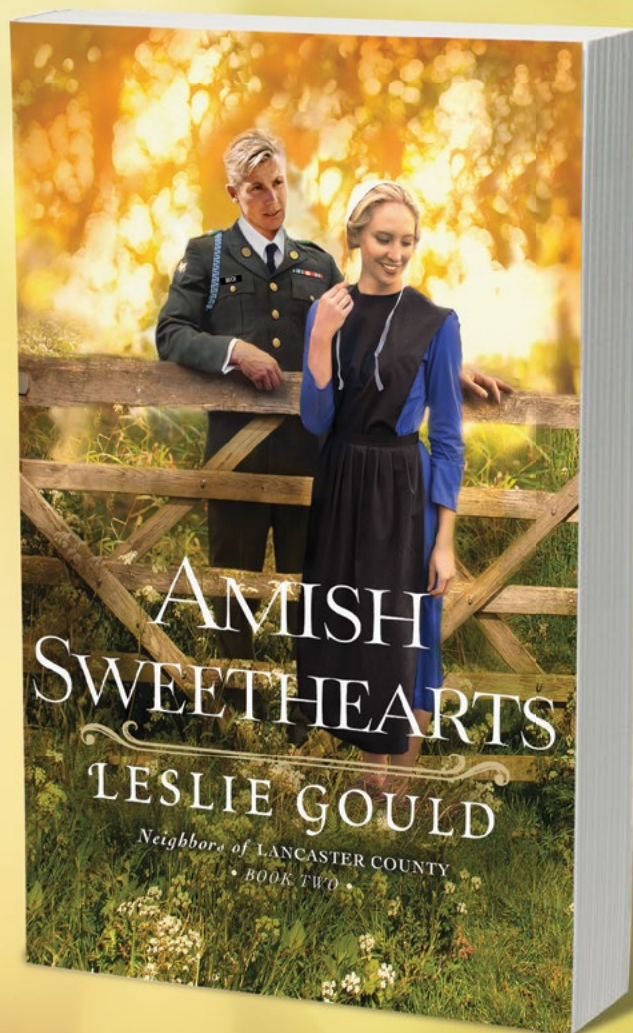


THEIR TWO WORLDS COULDN'T BE FURTHER APART.

Can Anything Bridge the Divide Between Them?

For years Zane Beck and his Amish neighbor Lila Lehman were the best of friends. But just as Zane gathered the courage to see if they could become something more, Lila's controlling father arranged for her to be courted by their bishop's son. Zane, heartbroken and frustrated, joined the Army, running away from his shattered dreams.

The passing of time and the distance between Zane and Lila haven't been enough to halt their—now completely hidden—feelings for each other. Any hope for their love grows even more impossible when Zane is deployed to Afghanistan. Being on the frontline, confronted with the hard choices of war, has him questioning everything, including whether he can continue to serve or not. But all choices have consequences, and with Lila preparing to marry another, will these one-time sweethearts ever find the life together that they both still long for?



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DUTCH HAVEN

AMISH COUNTRY LANDMARK

While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see both familiar and unexpected sights. Certainly the Plain folk and their horse and buggy transportation will seem a step back in time. But one unique and unmistakable landmark is the Dutch Haven windmill. Its revolving arms have been drawing thousands of visitors each week ever since it first opened as a restaurant back in 1946. And while hungry visitors could satisfy themselves on any number of Penn Dutch specialties, it was Dutch Haven's shoo fly pie that put it on the map...and in the record books as "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie."

This is undisputedly Amish Country's most famous dessert, and all you have to do is walk through the door at Dutch Haven to be offered a sample taste of this amazing treat, warmed and topped with whipped cream, just as it was served in the restaurant all those years ago.

Made with a secret recipe, some 40,000 pies are sold in the store or shipped via UPS all over the USA. Indeed, so popular and delicious are the pies that some faithful customers have been buying them for over 50 years!

Come Taste
America's Best
Shoo Fly Pie
FREE!

The pie that was featured in TIME magazine still plays a feature role at Dutch Haven. But the windmill building is now home to an amazing selection of over 10,000 items. One of the area's best selections of primitive Amish furniture includes corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves.

Woodcrafts, souvenirs and collectibles of all kinds fill the former dining rooms. Also on the shopper's menu would be everything from spice mats and Amish dolls to jams, jellies, and local honey. Who can resist buying a T-shirt, or maybe a bonnet or Amish felt hat? If you grow tired looking at all of the Dutch Haven gift items, relax in one of the Troutman Rocking Chairs, from the oldest rocking chair company in America. Also deserving of a trip home in your car are the colorful and decorative hex signs, a perfect reminder of a visit to Dutch Country.

Dutch Haven's shopping hours are Sun.-Thurs. 9am-7pm, Fri. & Sat. 9am-9pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111 or visit www.dutchhaven.com.

A visit to Dutch Haven, "the place that made shoo fly pie famous," will make your trip to Amish Country even more memorable...and tasty!

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A Q&A with . . .

Amish Country's Most Beloved Storyteller, **WANDA & BRUNSTETTER** *& Her Daughter-in-Law and Co-Author, JEAN BRUNSTETTER*

Highly respected for her novels that accurately portray the Amish people, their faith and culture, *New York Times* bestselling author Wanda E. Brunstetter is now collaborating with her talented daughter-in-law, Jean, to write an exciting new serial novel. Titled *The Amish Millionaire*, the six-book/six-month series begins with *The English Son*, where a desperate prodigal son returns to his Amish father to bail out his business after he's made yet another foolish mistake.

Wanda, after writing more than sixty books solo, what's it like to write as a team with your daughter-in-law, Jean?

Writing with Jean has been fun. We enjoy plotting, developing our characters, and creating scenes for our stories. Our thoughts and ideas seem to blend well, and the knowledge and love we share for the Amish help our stories be authentic.

Jean, how did this door to write collaboratively with Wanda open for you, and what have you learned as a result?

Previously, I had helped Wanda with some scene ideas for some of her novels. Later on, after visiting with some of our Amish friends, Wanda asked if I would be interested in co-authoring an Amish-themed novel with her. It's been a wonderful experience for me, and under Wanda's mentoring, I'm learning so many facets of being an author.

Collectively, what enables both of you to write stories about the Amish that are not only entertaining but informative about the culture of the Plain People?

We have many Amish friends in several communities across the country, whom we visit frequently. Besides our own observations and familiarity with their lifestyle, we are blessed in that our friends are more than happy to answer our questions and help us with our research.

How did you write the book as a team? Do you have different talents you bring to storytelling?

In the early stages, we get together and create a summary of the story we wish to tell. We do a detailed background sketch for each character in our book, followed by a chapter-by-chapter outline. Then I (Wanda) write the first draft of the book, sending each chapter after it's written to Jean, who adds more dialogue, description, or anything that comes to mind. Both of us edit until we feel the book is ready to send to our editor.

What did you set out to show about the Amish and their culture in this series?

We wanted to show how the Amish would respond if one of their family members became wealthy, which happens more often than most people realize. We know some Amish who have a lot of money, but none of them act differently because of it. They are still the humble, God-fearing people we know and love. Also, as in all of my books, we wanted to show that the Amish struggle with many of the same problems we English do.

On a personal level, what do you find rewarding about writing Amish fiction?

Knowing and loving the Amish the way we do makes writing about them rewarding.

Helping other people who read our books overcome a problem similar to what our characters are going through is fulfilling. Writing about the simpler way of life is a testimony to the Amish beliefs and a blessing, not only for the readers, but for us as writers as well.

The importance of family is an underlying theme in this series. How does this importance in the Amish culture differ from most other cultures in the US today?

For the Amish, God comes first and then their family. Unfortunately, many people in the US are so caught up in their daily routines that they overlook the importance of spending time with their family and friends.

What is the greatest reward of being an author?

The greatest reward is hearing from a reader that something in one of our books has helped them through a difficult time or changed their life in a positive way.

Where can readers find out more about you and your books?

My website is www.wandabrunstetter.com, and Jean hopes to have her own website sometime soon. Both of us also have fan pages on Facebook.

A Dramatic New Serial Novel from

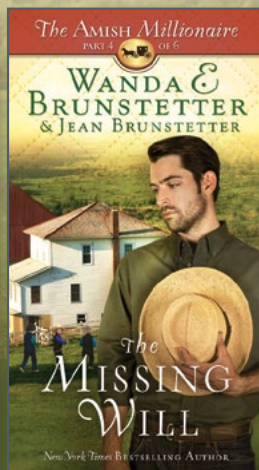
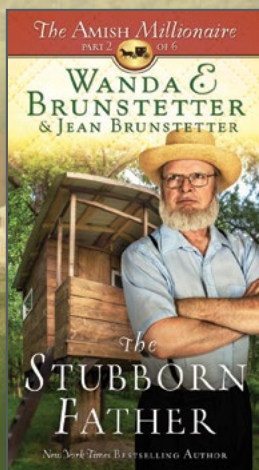
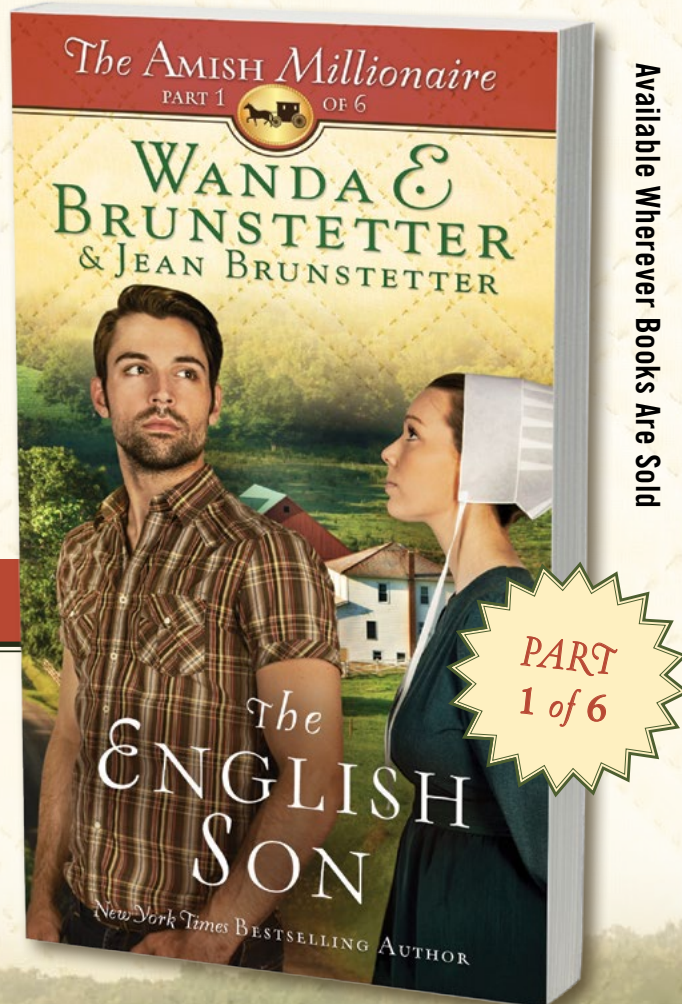
WANDA & BRUNSTETTER & JEAN BRUNSTETTER

Prodigal son, Joel Byler, has come home. When will the worldly young man learn he must pay for his own mistakes—and at what cost to his Amish family?

WANDA E. BRUNSTETTER, along with her daughter-in-law, Jean, deliver a fresh take on Amish romance with their dramatic Amish Millionaire serial novel. This compelling story will be broken into 6 quick reads releasing consecutively over a 6-month period. You'll be dying to know what happens next after reading Part 1: *The English Son*!

COLLECT *the* ENTIRE SERIES:

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- PART 3: *The Betrayed Fiancée* (May 2016)
- PART 4: *The Missing Will* (June 2016)
- PART 5: *The Divided Family* (July 2016)
- PART 6: *The Selfless Act* (August 2016)



Historic Lititz • A Hometown Treasure

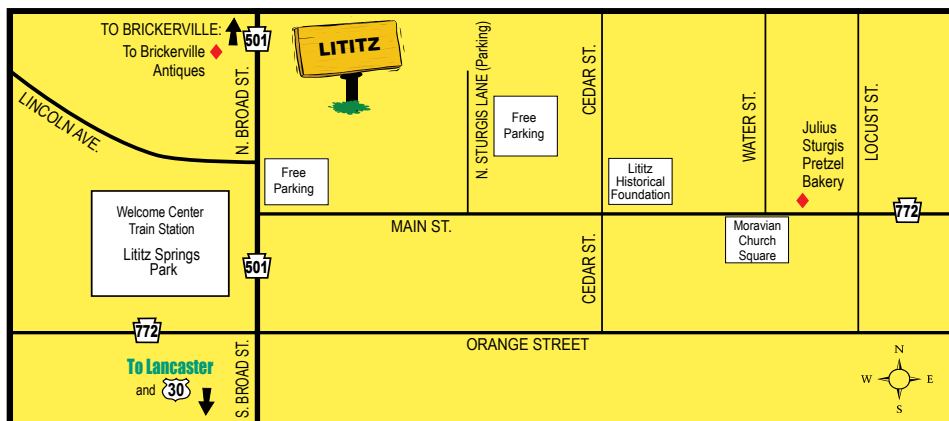


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Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz -- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street

is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time. 



Simple Life Green Screen Photos are at Beards, Bonnets, and Buggies Gift Shop, with Amish attire, props and backgrounds.

Sam's...the Perfect Place to Start or Finish Your Man Cave!

By Clinton Martin

One step into Sam's Man Cave, and you know this store is a tribute to the best of what beer, excluding the suds of course, has given us --- signs, taps, glassware, t-shirts, and of course, steins.

Some of the items are elegant and old-world. Others make you smirk. No matter your style, you'll need to look far and wide for a resource better than Sam's.

I have been fortunate to expand my collection of pint glasses with many a visit to Sam's, and I can report first-hand, the prices fit any budget. I encourage you to stop by to check out the unique merchandising selections you'll find here. Sam's is located on Route 30 in Lancaster, at 2207 Lincoln Highway East. Call (717)-394-6404 or www.samsmancave.com for more information. 

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Dutchland Quilt Patch - A Triple Treat for Quilters

By Brad Igou

Hundreds of quilts, 15,000 fabrics, three stores, and seven children. If that's not a Lancaster County business, what is? Lloyd Esh directs the operations of the family's three shops --- Dutchland Quilt Patch in Ronks and its sister stores at the Stagecoach Shops in Intercourse, and Weaver's Dry Goods just north of Lititz. But back in the 1970's, running one of the county's major quilting enterprises was the last thing Lloyd could have imagined he'd be doing.

When they got married, Lloyd's wife had been doing some quilting and putting the quilts on consignment at other shops, having learned to quilt from her mother. The question logically arose, "Why don't we open a shop of our own?"

But before that question could be answered, they both went on a mission trip to Haiti in 1979, and stayed there for about two and a half years. Just before their departure, they heard that some buildings beside Dutch Haven on Route 30 had become available.

Upon returning to the States, Lloyd went to look at the property. Even though the buildings were run down, he felt it was a good location for a shop. Since he had some construction background, he decided it was best to tear everything down and built a new store himself.

Continued on Page 14

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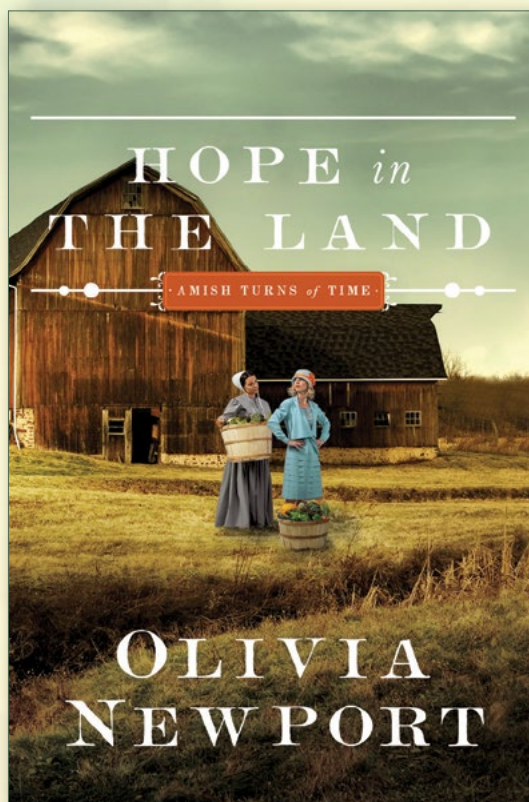
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BRAND-NEW AMISH FICTION

with a Historical Twist

Lancaster County Amish and English Neighbors Weather the Great Depression Together



When Henry Edison turns up in Lancaster County to survey farm women about their domestic contributions during the 1930s, the last thing Amish housewife Gloria Grabill has time for is the government agent's unending questions. While the Great Depression shadows the country in gloom, can Amish and English neighbors in Lancaster County grasp the goodness that will sustain hope?

Available at Your Favorite Bookstore

www.OliviaNewport.com

SHILOH RUN PRESS

Riehl's Quilts & Crafts. Down the Lane. On the Farm. Singularly Picturesque.

By Clinton Martin

The Riehl family farm is a productive little corner of Lancaster County soil. Three generations of this Amish family lend a hand to keep the business going. On one hand, this is a quaint dairy farm. The herd, which is always well under 100 cows, is carefully tended, and the milk collected is sold to a larger co-op.

This is a treasured vocation among the Amish, as the values inherent to a dairy seem to coincide well with their beliefs. However, the income from the milk business doesn't always provide a reliable means to pay the bills. The Riehl family therefore decided to open a shop on the farmstead selling their own hand-made quilts and crafts.

Years ago, the storefront was literally in the family's farmhouse, where grandma sewed and sold what she could to help subsidize the family farm business. Over the years, the quilt and craft business grew, with word-of-mouth helping to bring new customers, and the one-of-a-kind shopping experience bringing back repeat visitors.

Today, a stand-alone building, itself a locally hand-made example of Amish workmanship, stands between the farmhouse and the dairy barn. The mortise and tendon beams overhead hearken back to a time gone by, and the ceiling fans hiss away as the compressed air motor pumps them into motion through "Amish electricity."

But a visit to the Riehl's shop isn't recommended solely for the uniqueness of the setting. The merchandise beckons with a variety seldom seen in any retail chain. Hundreds of hands have spent thousands of hours to piece together, one at a time, the amazingly beautiful quilts that are on display. These are more than just blankets – they become treasured household pieces. They decorate, they warm, and they become heirlooms handed down through generations.

Besides quilts, the Riehl's also have on display a veritable cornucopia of craft items. Potholders, pillows, "quillows," and countless primitive home decorations are all laid out to delight shoppers of many tastes.

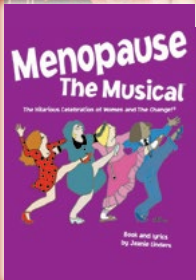


The Riehl family's store is nestled between the family home and dairy barn.

The storefront has grown to support many other families besides the Riehls. Hundreds of Amish neighbors and friends put their talents to work, making sure the shop shelves are never empty, enabling them to earn a living, too.

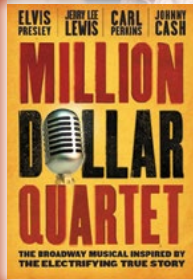
Whatever your reason for visiting the Riehl family farm, be prepared to experience an authentic slice of Amish life while you browse the epitome of Amish Country handmade crafts.

The Riehl family farm is located at 247 E. Eby Road, Leola, and welcomes visitors from 8:00am-5:00pm Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. Call 800-957-7105 (please no Sunday calls.) 



March 17 – April 30

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Laugh as these women make fun of their hot flashes, mood swings, wrinkles and chocolate binges in parodies of songs from the 60s, 70s and 80s. (Rated PG-13)



May 6 – June 19

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MCC Photo/Lindsay Linegar

Since graduating from an MCC-supported tailoring program in Juba, South Sudan, in 2013, Anet Konga, right, has established herself as a well-known tailor in her community.

MCC **THRIFT SHOPS** In the U.S. since 1974

"Gifts That Make A Difference"

By Clinton Martin

In 1920 a group of Mennonites created the Mennonite Central Committee to aid hungry people in Russia and Ukraine. Today, the MCC is at work in every continent except Antarctica and Australia. Regional offices in 50 countries operate as bases from which disaster relief, vocational development or peace-building reaches at least 60 nations.

The Mennonite Central Committee's Global Family Education Program pays for vocational training, helping people in some of the most poverty-stricken regions of the world to develop skills which provide them with a sustainable livelihood. Especially productive have been sewing classes, which not only provide an important education, but also the necessary equipment to support tailors, dress makers, and other entrepreneurs.

All this great work takes more than just a desire and a mission. It takes money to accomplish. Where does it all come from? Actually much of the money generated for supporting the MCC's efforts comes out of our own backyards. MCC benefit sales, such as quilt auctions, are a common way for local chapters to raise money. Just recently, a quilt named "Plain & Fancy" sold at an MCC sale for \$9,000. Over 100 talented Amish and Mennonite women had worked on the painstaking creation of the now famous textile. But a \$9,000 quilt is only a drop in the bucket when it comes to filling the coffers of the MCC. Over 16 million dollars of

the MCC's annual budget comes from a very interesting source. A network of over 100 MCC Thrift Shops throughout the US and Canada. The largest concentration of MCC Thrift Shops is right here in PA (19 shops) and the largest concentration in PA is, of course, right here in Amish Country (6 shops).

While you're in Amish Country visit these shops. You'll know that while you are filling your shopping bag with unique merchandise you are also helping a worthy cause. Seek out as many of these shops as you like, and discover a whole new kind of shopping. Find out more about the MCC in general at www.mcc.org. For more information about the MCC Thrift Shop network, visit www.thrift.mcc.org.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Clothing & Housewares • 717.733.4982

The small-town of Ephrata embodies the best of downtown Amish Country. There is plenty to do in this venerated borough, including some excellent thrift shop bargain-browsing. The Ephrata Re-Uzit shop is located right beside the old train station, now the town's visitor center, with plenty of free public parking including hitching rails for buggies, since the local Amish & Mennonite communities enjoy shopping here too. With one of the thrift shop network's widest selections of clothing, this store offers a fine way to clothe the kids, mom, dad, friends, family, and even grandma



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and grandpa. There is also plenty of glassware and kitchen items, plus a well-stocked toy corner full of dolls, trucks, puzzles, and plush items.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Furniture & Books •

717.733.4934 Also on State Street at the south edge of Ephrata is a furniture and book warehouse not to be missed. Luxurious used leather couches and sectionals are available at fantastic prices, while a large selection of wooden furniture like hutches, dining room sets, and desks and end tables are on display beside an impressive variety of upholstered choices. Sharing space in this store is also an extensive selection of books and other media. Locals and visitors alike love that every purchase helps support disaster relief around the Country and the world. The easiest way to reach this store is to head North on Route 272 from Lancaster, taking State Street at the Y (use the Wendy's as a landmark) and turn right into the parking lot of the store directly after turning onto State Street.

Re-Uzit Shop of New Holland •

717.354.8355 At the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road in New Holland is a very special thrift shop. It started in 1976 and was the first MCC Thrift Shop in Lancaster County. This is one of the largest thrift shops in the entire MCC-supporting network. Retail space alone accounts for 26,000 square feet

of items on display, with the entire building occupying 40,000 square feet! There is plenty of furniture, clothing, crafts, gifts, decorations, small kitchen appliances, dishware, hardware, antiques, collectibles, and lamps available in this multifloor shopper's delight. This store has selected items for half price every week based on the color of the price tag. In addition, there is a section for 50 cent clothing. Known for a bright, clean atmosphere with friendly, helpful staff, this Re-Uzit offers shoppers a fine way to spend an afternoon in Amish Country. www.newhollandreuzit.org

Morgantown Re-Uzit Shoppe •

610.286.7233 Morgantown is often considered the gateway to Amish Country from the east. It is an easy hop and skip off the PA Turnpike, the first welcome to Amish Country many visitors see, and can be easily reached from Berks, Chester, and Lancaster Counties. On Route 23 just west of Morgantown stands a Re-Uzit shop full of thrifty and useful finds. This store has everything for daily life's necessities. Apparel, décor, home goods, toys, gifts – shop here before you go to a regular retail store. You'll probably find what you're looking for, save money, and support a worthy cause all at the same time. A great collection of vintage collectibles and antiques is a fun bonus. "Like" the store on Facebook to see more photos, specials, hours and directions.



the MAIN STREET CLOSET
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MORGANTOWN
Re-Uzit Shoppe

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2769 Main St. Morgantown
610-286-7233
Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-3 • Closed Sun

The Main Street Closet • 717.464.2038

Main Street Closet is 5 minutes south of Lancaster at 2842 N. Willow Street Pike in Willow Street, PA. The shop has been at this new location since April of 2013 and is growing by leaps and bounds. The inventory changes daily with a large assortment of housewares, vintage items, collectibles, glassware, tools, books, shoes, games, puzzles, linens and a huge variety of clothing for the entire family. Every week items with a different color price tag go on sale at half price throughout the store. You are sure to find that special something to add to your collection, a craft item you have been looking for, a cute outfit for one of the kids and even something for yourself or your spouse. Check out this fun store and see what treasure you might find! From Lancaster take Route 272 south. Turn left on the second road past Kendig Square shopping mall, which is West Willow Road. Proceed several blocks to the corner of West Willow and 272 North. If traveling north on 272, turn left onto West Willow Road to enter the parking lot. With items on display at the various stores above always changing, stop in at one or more of them and remember that you are not only helping yourself to quality merchandise at a fair price, but helping other folks in need at the same time. www.mainstreetcloset.org



Re-Uzit Shop
of New Holland, Inc.

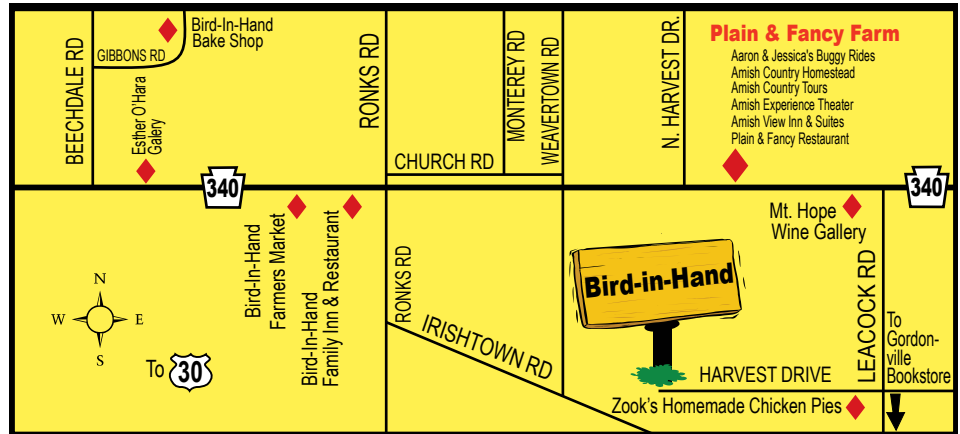
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Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoners were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is



known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster

County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

Uplifting, Amish Country Entertainment

The Bird-in-Hand Stage delights audiences with Broadway-style musicals from Amish Country, and has become one of Lancaster County's must-see stops for live performances. Tickets are now on sale for our 2016 season.

The Magic & Wonder Show - April 21-October 22

Josiah for President - July 22-November 5

The Confession - May 5-July 14

Our Christmas Dinner - November 11-December 31

For tickets, call (800) 790-4069 or visit Bird-in-Hand.com for more information.



Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant

& STAGE

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Create. Enhance. Transform. Embellish...Quilt!

By Clinton Martin



The quilt contest is one of the most popular attractions at Quilt Week.

Some quilters might not always think of themselves as artists, but even the most practical every day quilt sewn together with scraps of cast-off fabric can be appreciated as a form of folk art. On the other hand, some quilts are professionally pieced together as exquisite fine art pieces, suited for hanging in a gallery or collection.

Quilts portraying every step of this great spectrum are celebrated in Lancaster, where both "English" and Amish create a wonderful world of quilts for both personal use and commercial sale. The annual American Quilter's Society show in Lancaster has long accumulated the grandest celebration of quilts in Amish Country. Known as Quilt Week, the Wednesday-Saturday (March 16-19) show offers something for everyone, from the casual quilt observer to the expert quilt designer.

A huge merchant mall boggles the mind with quilt, craft, and sewing supplies, accessories, gifts, and books. Classes led by expert, nationally known quilt artists are offered for every skill level, from beginner to advanced. Workshops focus on classic quilt techniques while also delving into new innovations in quilting such as the use of paint, photographs, and embroidery.

Esther O'Hara Gallery

"Where the Popular Amish Figurines Are Designed"



- Quilted Jewelry
- Hand Signed Reproductions
- Original Figurines
- Amish Nativity Sets

Esther's gallery is nestled in **The Old Village Hardware Building** in Bird-in-Hand, PA, where she creates Amish figurines and jewelry on-site.



Esther O'Hara designs the Amish Line for Blossom Bucket, Inc., based in Ohio. Copyrights on designs - Trademark Pending

2705 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird in Hand, PA 17505

EstherOHaraGallery.com • 717.859.2464 • shadesofquilts@gmail.com

A juried quilt contest shows off prize quilts in various categories, with impressive prize money on the line. Almost 150 semifinalists are vying for honors. These quilts and others organized in special exhibits are all on display for the thousands of attendees to admire.

One of the semi-finalists for 2016 is actually a quilt-based charity called Quilters Without Borders. This amazing organization delivers volunteer-made quilts to children in need throughout the world. In 2015 alone, nearly 1,200 quilts were shipped to struggling communities in the States and abroad.

For GPS directions, 3 East Vine Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603. Or from

Route 30, take the Fruitville Pike exit and follow directions for "Historic Lancaster." Fruitville Pike will become N. Prince Street. Proceed south on N. Prince Street to King Street and turn left on King. Penn Square will be one block to your right at the next traffic signal. Bear right for the parking entrance.

More information can be found at www.quiltweek.com or by calling 270-898-7903. A one-day pass costs \$14, and a four-day pack is just \$35. Whether you are "into" quilting or not, it's a dazzling display of color and creativity you'll not want to miss! 



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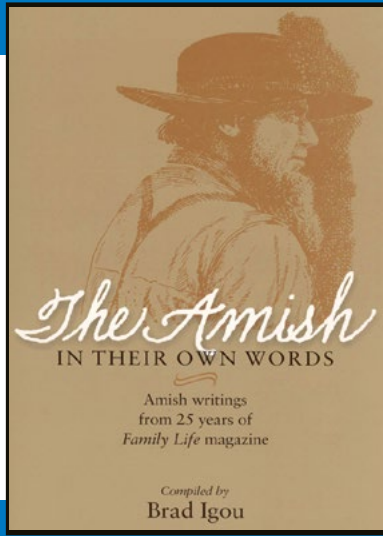
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--Jack Brubaker, *The Scribbler, Lancaster New Era*

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--John D. Ruth, *Director, Mennonite Historical Library*

**Available at the Amish Experience,
Plain & Fancy Farm, Lifeway,
by phone and online at leading book web sites.**

1-800-247-4784

Dutchland Quilt Patch

(Continued from Page 7)

Thus, in 1993, their small shop of quilts and quilt related items opened in the Village of Dutch Delights in Ronks, just about a mile east of Rockvale Outlets and Route 896. Crafts and baskets were part of the mix from the beginning, and this expanded into an extensive collection of country decor and home interior decorating items to supplement the quilts.

Lloyd had originally considered making his living in construction, and was also pursuing a real estate license. However, it became evident that running the quilting business was becoming a full-time job, rather than just a side business. That became even more

apparent when they bought a second shop in 1995 on Main Street in Intercourse, part of the Stagecoach Shops complex on Route 340.

Because of all the quilts being made, they had lots of fabric around, and customers often wanted specific fabric to make something else to complement the quilt they had bought. And so, in 1997, the fabric section was opened on the second floor of the original store. As the fabric business grew, aided to no small degree by sales over their website, www.dutchlandquilts.com, they decided to purchase Weaver's Dry Goods in Lititz in 2002. And that's how this business grew into a triple treat for quilt seekers and quilt makers.

The Dutchland Quilt Patch, Ronks is located at 2851-A Lincoln Hwy East (Route 30).

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Call (800) 411-3221. The Dutchland Quilt Patch, Intercourse is located at 3453 Old Philadelphia Pike (Route 340). Call (717) 768-3981. Weavers Dry Goods, Lititz, is located at 108 West Brubaker Valley Road. Call 717-627-1724. All three stores are open daily except for Sunday. 

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An "I Spy" Experience for the Senses: Country Housewares Store

By Clinton Martin

Country Housewares Store might sound relatively straightforward. You shop out in the country for housewares, right? But let me tell you, the experience is so much more! Every time I visit this Amish store, I feel like I've walked into an "I Spy" book. My eyes rove the shelves picking out interesting finds that just aren't seen at other stores.

Hand-cranked blender? I saw it there. Double burner home canning stove? Yes, and every other doodad needed to can your own produce at home. Camping gear? Yes.



Country Housewares Store stocks hard to find country goods for both Amish and English.

Toys? Yes, and not the battery-dependent, plastic hulks you see on display at those big box stores. The toys at Country Housewares Store will remind you of a time when toys could still be handed down from one sibling to the next. Toy trucks built to last. Farm toys built to handle even the most energetic boy's imagination.

I guess you can tell I love the Country Housewares Store. I usually just window shop, perhaps to the chagrin of the owner, but I have also purchased many items, like board games (they have an excellent selection) and even a toy rocking-horse for my children.

Spy out your own fascinating find by shopping at the Country Housewares Store. Call (717) 556-0985 or just drive over to 587 Musser School Road, Leola PA. (Just not on a Sunday.) 

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Stop in at Good 'n Plenty today to enjoy our traditional Lancaster County home cooking and you'll see why we've been chosen as one of AAA's Top 10 BEST "down-home dining" restaurants in North America. Staffed with local cooks who have devoted years to preparing outstanding food, Good 'n Plenty is like no other restaurant in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch area.

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Takeout Want all the delicious food but no time to sit down? The Good 'n Plenty takeout program is ideal for people on the go.



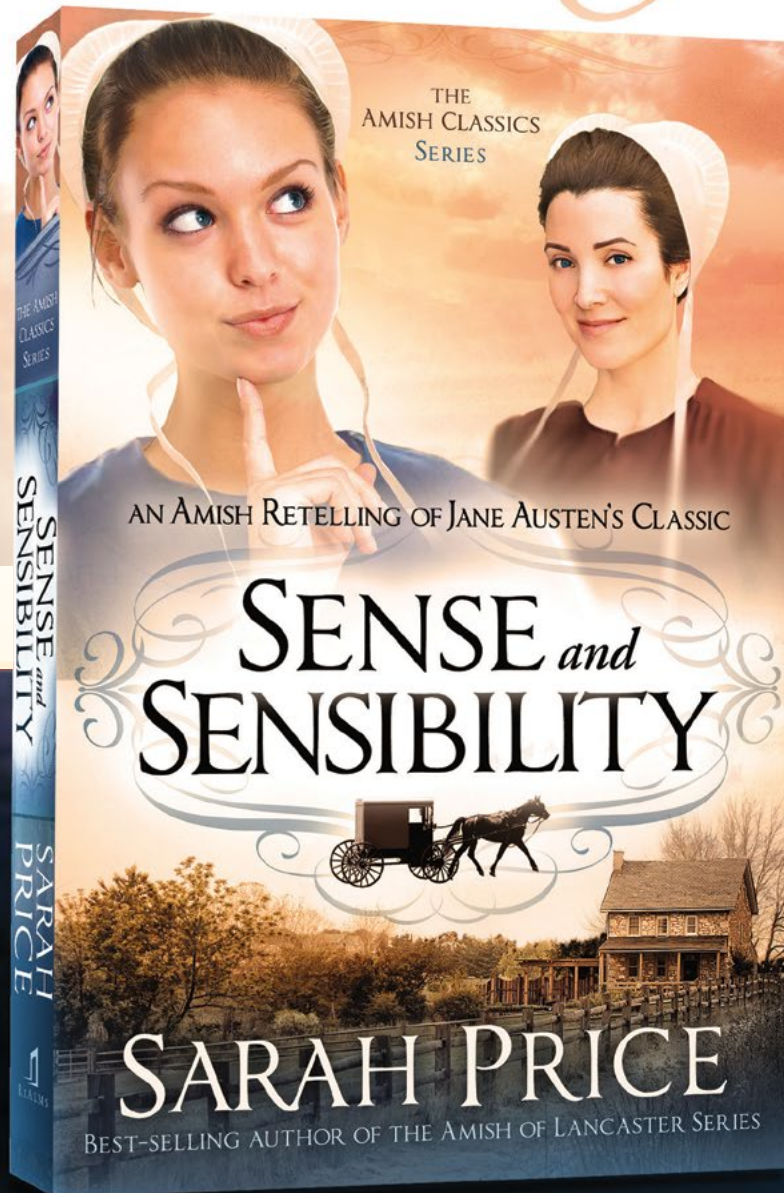
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Journey along back country roads, deep into the Amish Farmlands to discover sights rarely seen. Under the watchful eye of your certified guide, you'll gain insights into the "how" and "why" of an everchanging culture, and see at-the-moment activities of the Amish. If you've seen the Amish portrayed on the various "Reality" TV shows, and you wonder what really is true and not true about the Amish, this is the tour you won't want to miss! We'll debunk myths about the Amish and provide accurate, respectful, and authentic information, just like we have done for over 50 years.

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Beginning March 19

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Mon.-Sat., 10am, 12pm, 2pm & 4pm

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In a group whose size is never more than 14, this is the only Amish Tour

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Duration: 3 hours

April 4 - June 30

Departs 5pm

July 1 - Sept. 4

Departs 10:30am, 2:30pm, 5pm

Sept. 6 - Oct. 31

Departs 5pm

Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26

Departs 5pm

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here It All Began. Over 50 years ago, Plain & Fancy Farm opened to provide delicious, authentic Amish meals to visitors from all over the world, the first family-style restaurant in Lancaster County. Today Plain & Fancy is a destination all its own, featuring the acclaimed "Jacob's Choice" Amish Experience Theater, Amish Homesteads and Visit-in-Person Tours, the heritage Site Amish House & One-Room School, and Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides. The onsite Country Store offers excellent entry shopping, and the newest addition to the property, Amish View Inn & Suites, has a brand new extension with great views and luxurious lodging surrounded by stunning Amish countryside.

Lancaster Original. Amos, Ben, Benny and Elmer are some of the Amish farmers who supply the restaurant with farm-fresh produce it serves on a daily basis. Depending on the season, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions are all sourced from farms within a horse-and-buggy's drive. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy "from farm to table" for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today's Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast. Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known as Lancaster County's original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered nodules, green and yellow string beans, sweet shoe peg corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. It was this very meal that drew Man Vs. Food's Adam Richman to Amish Country, where he went behind the scenes in the Plain & Fancy kitchen for one of his popular show's episodes.

The New "a la carte" Menu. The restaurant also offers a new a la carte menu featuring mouth-watering appetizers, nature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters, including several Dutch specialties. Guests can "build a better" with items from the family-style menu or choose one of the daily specials starting at \$10 or less. You can do it all at Plain & Fancy, so why not come and spend the day!" 



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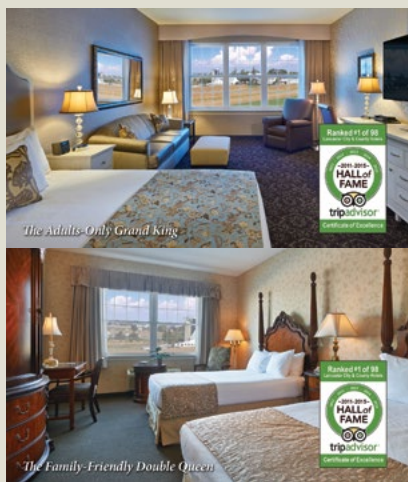
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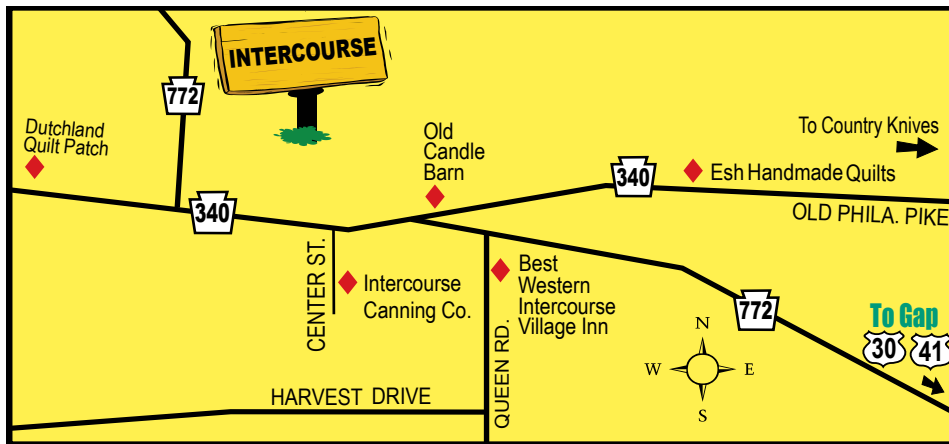
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Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on just one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing

rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

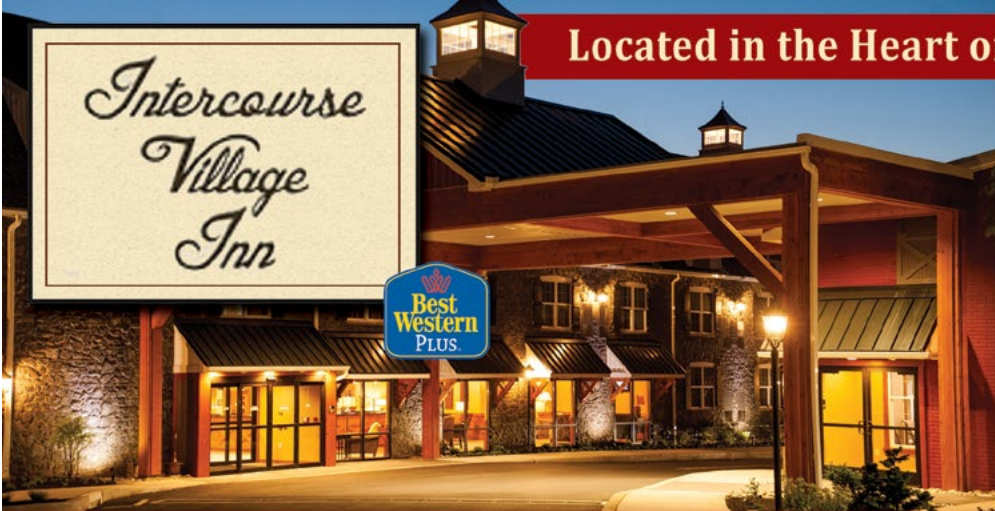
It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent

intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for \$6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires! Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Discover Lancaster Visitors Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone.



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THE ATONEMENT --- Why Beverly Lewis Is an Amish Fiction Legend

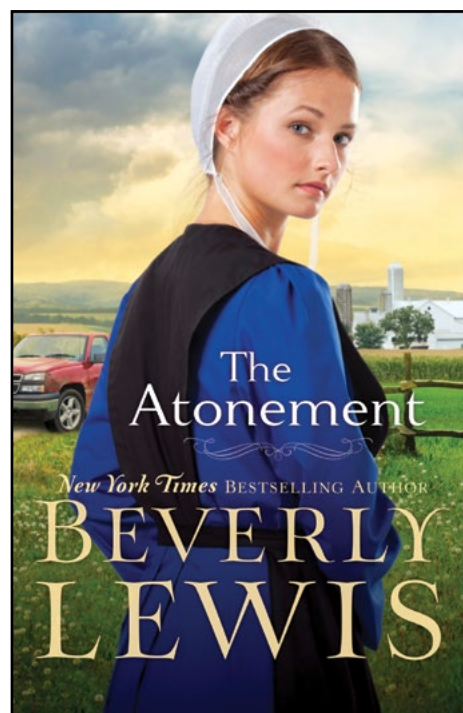
By Clinton Martin

A story takes us on a journey, and Beverly Lewis has taken us on some of the most wonderful of Amish journeys, answering many longing questions of the heart along the way. The question posed by THE ATONEMENT... "Is it too late to embrace redemption, and the power of love?"

A young Amish woman, reaching a time typically considered the tail-end of marrying age, without having courted, feels lost. She

tries to fill the ache in her heart with volunteer service, both within the Plain and the Fancy communities (meaning both the Amish and "English.")

She meets a dashing young man while volunteering at the hospital, right? No, not exactly. Her father happens to befriend a new-to-town Englisher who's looking for a simpler life. And so it is that this man is brought into her life by none other than her own father.



The Atonement is the latest title from bestselling author Beverly Lewis.

Beverly Lewis clearly beckons us to follow her through a forbidden Amish love saga. At the same time, she is taking us through a father's angst. What are the consequences of having brought this "outsider" into his family's life?

Beverly Lewis' many wonderful titles can be found locally at the Gordonville Bookstore, 275 Old Leacock Road, Gordonville, PA. Call (717) 768-3512. You can always order online from www.bethanyhouse.com.

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Spring 2016 Issue Events Listings:



The Great Train Robbery at the Strasburg Rail Road features costumed performers and family fun.

March 16
Homeschool Day
Turkey Hill Experience

March 16 - 19
AQS QuiltWeek Show
Lancaster County Convention Center

March 18 - 20
Cash Balloons & Ice Cream
Gish's Furniture

March 25 - 27
Easter Bunny Train
Strasburg Rail Road

March 27
Easter Brunch
Revere Tavern

April 23
Great Train Robbery
Strasburg Rail Road

May 8
Nikki's Sunday Picnic
Strasburg Scooters

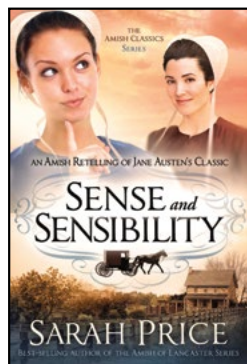
May 14
Annual Brewfest
Mount Hope Estate

May 28 - 29
Great PA FlavorFest
Mount Hope Estate

May 28 - 30
Memorial Day Bluegrass Weekend
Flory's Cottages & Camping

It Just Makes Plain Sense --- Author Sarah Price's Latest Amish "Must-Read"

By Clinton Martin



The latest in the Amish Classics Series, author Sarah Price reimagines *Sense and Sensibility* in the Amish world.

I remember reading one or two of Jane Austen's works in school, one of those required reading list installments that as a youth I hardly appreciated, but now as an adult devour in an instant with gusto. It's really a crime that so many of us in those formative years read because we HAD to when we actually had more than enough time to do so, while in adulthood only manage to look longingly back at two and a half months of summer off with books aplenty to explore, yet few, if any, opened.

The summer of reading may be dead and buried, but I did manage to find a few minutes for myself to read the opening chapter of author Sarah Price's latest Amish retelling of a Jane Austen classic... *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY*, as seen through the eyes of the Amish world.

Not that I had planned this ahead of time, but when proofing this very publication I saw a line along the bottom of Charisma Publishing's ad for Price's novel, which simply said "Read a Free Chapter," and then a web address (all lower case), bit.ly/senseandsensibilitybook. I couldn't resist. A free chapter? More like a free escape into another world (the Amish world no less) for a few minutes. Done!

I got sucked in. A respected Amish elder, twice being nominated for Bishop, though never having been selected in the lot, lay on his death bed, nearing the end of a long life lived well. His only son is by his side, just as it should be.

But, there's a tense moment. A request made by a dying man that floors his son. The full inheritance, family farm, and all his father's holdings come with a deep and perhaps even

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painful admonition. Oh, this is going to be good!

If I had a Kindle I could just download and read the rest of the book on the spot, but I'm still a hold-a-former-tree-in-your-hands kind of guy, so I'll just have to wait for the book to arrive in the mail.

Will the story grab you like it did me? I can't say, but I do suggest you'll enjoy reading the free chapter just as I did, and decide for yourself. Very little in life is actually free, but these few minutes of escape truly are. Happy reading! 🐷



Intercourse Canning Company welcomes visitors to sample salsas, dips, pickles and more at the ICC store on Centre Street in Intercourse.

Just One More Thing... What is Playing at Rainbow Comedy Playhouse?

By Clinton Martin

Many people remember the somewhat dowdy, junky-car driving, detective Columbo on TV, sleuthing expertly and unassumingly through whodunit after unsolvable (except by him) conundrum.

Well, before this smash hit dominated the airwaves, CATCH ME IF YOU CAN was the play that inspired the show. This masterpiece of plot twists and turns is now playing to rave reviews at Rainbow Comedy Playhouse.

A husband on vacation reports his wife missing. It's a he-said, she-said classic, and surprises even the most avid mystery connoisseur. Oh, and there's maybe a murder or two.

But don't expect a wry and dry musty old drama. This is Rainbow's Comedy Playhouse. They're America's only all-comedy dinner theater, meaning you never leave having not exercised your funny bone.

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Of Quilts, Quiche, and Quillows at Country Lane Quilts

By Clinton Martin

Country Lane Quilts is a lovely on-the-farm quilt and craft shop, a shop carefully tended by Katie Stoltzfus. She and Amish and Mennonite ladies within a few minutes of her shop create quilts and quillows in a menagerie of colors and styles, offering visitors the chance to purchase a completely unique gift from Amish Country.

For those that wish to experience the flavor of Amish Country in addition to the aesthetic of the countryside, Country Lane Quilts brings generations of Amish cooking into one delicious cookbook. Katie gathered together all the best of her family recipes and published an authentic cookbook.



Katie Stoltzfus collected generations of family recipes for the Country Lane Quilts cookbook.

The Country Lane Quilts Cookbook offers hundreds of easy-to-follow recipes, rich in tradition and bursting with Lancaster County flavors. Generations of homemakers from the Stoltzfus family have collected and fine-tuned these prized recipes.

In addition to the wholesome recipes, each category divider page features an eye-catching, hand stitched quilt design, along with the pattern name it is known by, and the quilting history behind it.

The book contains over 400 recipes ranging from beverages, breads, breakfast foods, cakes, casseroles, church wedding food, cookies & bars, desserts, icing, jams & jellies, pies, salads, sandwiches, snacks, soups, vegetables and much more.

Country Lane Quilts is located at 221 S. Groffdale Road, Leola. Visitors are welcome Monday through Saturday. The farm is closed Sundays. Call for information, 717-656-8476. 

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* Starting March 11, dinner is served 7 Days from 11:30am. Prior to Mar 11, dinner served Fri-Sun from 11:30am, Mon-Thr from 4pm.

Myths About the Amish

by Brad Igou

Part Seven in a Series...

In this series, we will deal with several misconceptions about the Amish, some of which have some truth to them. We will attempt to provide balanced and accurate explanations. The reader should keep in mind that Amish customs vary a great deal across the United States. Most of our analysis is focused on our Lancaster County Amish settlement, the oldest in the Nation.

Over the years, and even more so today with the proliferation of “reality TV shows,” widespread misconceptions have been formed about the Amish. The portrayals of our Amish neighbors have often gone beyond stereotypes, to outright lies. One of the prime examples of the outrageous (but sadly popular) has been the “Amish Mafia” series. While some watch these shows for their entertainment value, others actually end up believing much of what they see. Unfortunately, such shows have made it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

Part 1: "The Amish Don't Have Phones"

Most visitors think the Amish avoid everything modern. It is therefore surprising to them to see an Amishman making a call on a cellphone. They are equally surprised to learn that the Amish will sometimes use the phone of their “English” (non-Amish) neighbors. Many are shocked to discover that some of those buildings that resemble “outhouses” near the home or in a field are actually private Amish telephone booths!

Dr. Diane Zimmerman Umble, Professor of Communication at Millersville University, has written an excellent book on the evolution of telephone usage by the Amish, *HOLDING THE LINE*. At a lecture concerning her research for the book, she noted that some Amish carpentry crews have cellular phones, fax, and answering machines and services are used, and there's even a dog that barks to alert the household to the phone ringing in the telephone booth outside!

According to Zimmerman, before 1910 there was no real position taken by the Amish church concerning telephones. In the early days, there were many phone companies and “farmer lines” to link them with their neighbors. Some of these phone lines were not even connected to the commercial companies.

A split in the church actually resulted over the use of the phone. The Old Order Amish interpretation was that the phone must be banned in the home as contrary to the spirit of humility, not being a necessity, contributing to pride and individualism, and as something coming from the outside world.

There was concern that the phone removed people from the physical, face-to-face context of communication so important in Amish society. Elders were concerned about

“unmonitored” private communication and the effect on young people. The act of using a phone, however, was not forbidden.

By the 1950's, as more plain people were forced to walk into businesses or hotels to use phones, and the importance of having access to a phone for emergencies was recognized, the bishops allowed the use of the “community phone.” The phone was kept outside the house, the number remained unlisted, and it could be shared by several families. The approach was to basically limit the phone for outgoing calls, not socializing. This “accommodation” allowed access, but maintained distance.

Noted author on Amish culture, Dr. Donald Kraybill, summarized Amish concerns of the “telephone threat,” partly a reaction to the old telephone “party lines,” as follows:

- Brings outside communication
- Violates separation from world
- Reduces visiting (an Amishman called visiting “our national sport”)
- Hides symbolic dress
- Decontextualizes interaction

For Amish who still share a “phone shanty,” there is often a logbook for each person to write down long-distance calls made, and the monthly phone bill is divided up among the households sharing the same phone. Many Amish farmers find the phone important to contact a veterinarian in times of need.

In the 1980's, the increase in Amish enterprises resulted in more creative phone use. Many Amish entrepreneurs noted that the phone was critical to their competitiveness and success in non-farming endeavors in Lancaster County. Even today, some ads for Amish businesses state a time to call, when the owner will be near the phone.

Over the following years, there was serious debate as to how much of the new telephone technology would be allowed, and what impact it might have. This was especially true with the appearance of the cell phone, which was adopted by many Amish. (The first “Blackberry” I ever saw was being used by an Amish carriage maker!)

One Amish mother once told me her boys, who had not yet joined the church, were quite accustomed to using their cellphones. She wondered how easy it would be for them to give them up when they got baptized. Today these phones are more common, even among Amish adults, especially those in business.

Amish bishops as a group might not have formally “spoken” on the matter, but apparently in some districts cellphones were not allowed, while they were “tolerated” in others. One Amishman said the concern is not the use, but the abuse of the phone.

In 2013, Kraybill was quick to point out the range of phone usage by Amish across the United States, from the Swartzentrubers who are loathe to even hold a telephone, and might have someone else there talking for them, to Amish youth with smart phones in Lancaster.

And today, the real challenge and concern is increased use of the “smartphone.” There is general agreement that it may be the single biggest threat to the Amish in decades. Now you can take and send photos, watch movies, surf the internet, listen to music, etc. Like the ordinary cellphone, it can be taken with you anywhere, including into the house. Clearly, its impact remains to be seen. But Amish unquestionably see the danger when you possess “the world in your pocket.” 

To be continued in the next issue...



The idea of “Hub & Spoke” has become popular with visitors. You can stay in one central location, and do short day trips to other nearby destinations from your base. In Amish Country, hub and spoke locations are many. Here are a few that are popular with visitors, all from the home base of Lancaster...

Lancaster to Hershey: 30 Miles Driving Time: 40 Minutes

For most people, the name Hershey means chocolate. Visitors notice streets with names like Cocoa and Chocolate Avenues and streetlights in the shape of Hershey Kisses. The factory and town, founded by candy entrepreneur Milton S. Hershey, is now a destination all its own, and HersheyPark has become one of the top theme parks in the world.

Mr. Hershey used his millions to create a world-famous school for orphan children that to this day remains one of the great examples of American philanthropy. In 1910 Milton and Catherine Hershey started their school with four orphan boys. (They had no children of their own.) In 1918, Hershey left his entire personal fortune to the school, making headlines in the New York Times. The school is probably the finest childcare facility of its kind in the world. It provides room & board, medical and dental services, and education for children in need at no cost to their parent or guardian.

At the center of the school campus stands Founder’s Hall, which was built as a tribute to

Mr. Hershey. The huge domed rotunda makes it one of the most impressive structures in the Western Hemisphere, a definite “must-see” when you visit the town. The statue dedicated to him in Founders Hall reads, “His deeds are his monument. His life is our inspiration.”

When visiting Hershey, your starting point should be HERSHEY’S CHOCOLATE WORLD. Did you know that Hershey kisses were first introduced in 1907, and that the Hershey plant can produce 24 million kisses in one day? Enjoy the fun on the exciting and educational chocolate-making tour ride and get a free sample at the end. Remember, admission to the Chocolate World ride is FREE! Information on other Hershey area attractions is available here as well.

Lancaster to Grantville: 40 Miles Driving Time: 50 Minutes

Grantville might not be a household name among visitors to Amish Country yet, but it won’t be long before this destination just 15 minutes north of Hershey and 20 minutes east of Harrisburg is equally famous. Grantville boasts a bevy of hotel options with easy access to Interstate 81, but it is far more than just a base from which to visit the nearby attractions. Besides having the region’s only casino and race track, Grantville also offers a number of delicious restaurants and fun shops. Beards, Bonnets, and Buggies is a new gift shop, offering PA Dutch souvenirs, Amish handcrafts, primitive country décor, and a green-screen photo attraction, which allows the whole family to dress up Amish, hold Amish props, and stand in front of a menagerie of PA Dutch backgrounds.

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Lancaster to Denver/ Adamstown: 21 Miles Driving Time: 20 Minutes

Just a bit north of Ephrata (and south of Reading) is an area known as “Antiques Capital, U.S.A.” The Denver / Adamstown area is bursting with antique shops. Many of these are even open on Sundays, making this a great destination for those trolling for bargains over the weekend. Renninger’s Original Antiques Market is legendary, and open every Sunday. With 375 dealers indoors and up to 300 outdoors (weather permitting), you’ll find just about anything you’re looking for, plus a lot you didn’t even know about! It’s great fun, and the Adamstown area really does make a perfect Sunday activity in Amish Country!

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Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball



The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate

(western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn

offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres.

By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland. These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.

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When You're Looking for Quilts, You're Looking for Witmer's

By Clinton Martin

Emma Witmer knows a thing or two about quilts. She's had her quilt shop at 1076 W. Main Street, New Holland for almost 50 years. She stresses her shop isn't a fabric store, or a sewing machine shop, but it is an absolutely splendid quilt shop.

Her specialty is showcasing the detailed handcraft that goes into any quilt. She'll gladly explain to visitors the styles of each of her quilts, the history behind them, and will recommend a quilt based on how you plan to use it.

Her shop has over 200 quilts, pillows, and wall hangings in stock, but she also has over 100 antique quilts, dating back to before 1850. Visitors without luggage space need not worry; she gladly arranges shipping, including internationally (which she's done numerous times over the years).

Witmer Quilt Shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. Call 717-656-9526. 

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Traditional Japanese Dressmaker's Shears... Only at Country Knives!

By Clinton Martin

Country Knives is indeed "one sharp store." Ok, that's the one and only knife pun you'll have to endure from me. But with over 8,000 cutlery items in stock, Country Knives truly is an edged-tool paradise. While most people think knives,

such as the types used for hunting, camping, fishing, etc., Country Knives deals in much more. And if you stop and think about it, everyone the world over uses cutlery on a daily basis.

What kitchen doesn't have knives? Unless you plan on going unshaven, you've got "cutlery" in your bathroom cabinet, too. Even kids use those blunted scissors to create artwork to hang on the fridge.

With this Spring issue of *Amish Country News*, our theme is quilting and crafting, partially due to the large quilt shows held in Lancaster County at this time of year.

Sewers and stitchers are a common sight visiting numerous fabric and thread stores. But Country Knives should also be on the agenda for anyone in town for the textile arts. Country Knives has serious, high-quality and sought-after fabric cutlery. Take for instance their line of traditional Japanese dressmaker shears. Who knew?

Somewhere around the middle of the 1800's, Japan was going through a cultural shift. Age-old Japanese traditions were starting to waver as Western influence increased. Politics, economics, even clothing styles began to change. In fact, the Japanese government enacted laws prohibiting the samurai class from carrying swords and wearing certain traditional styles.

With Western fabric and clothing styles came the need for tools to manipulate them. Japanese tailors found their traditional tools to be limiting in this new world, so they began importing Western shears. The quality was fine, but they were heavy and cumbersome.

This opened the door for innovation, and master sword-makers in and around 1900 began developing uniquely Japanese shears, able to deftly work the new fashions of the day, while borrowing from the exquisite balance, form, and function of thousands of years of Japanese sword-making technology.

Today there are many brands of Japanese shears, the best of which are available to see, hold in your hands, and discover at Country Knives. Visit the store, ask questions, and be prepared for a wealth of knowledge in the answers.

Country Knives is open Monday through Saturday, 9am-5pm. GPS directions: 4134 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville PA. Call 717-768-3818. 



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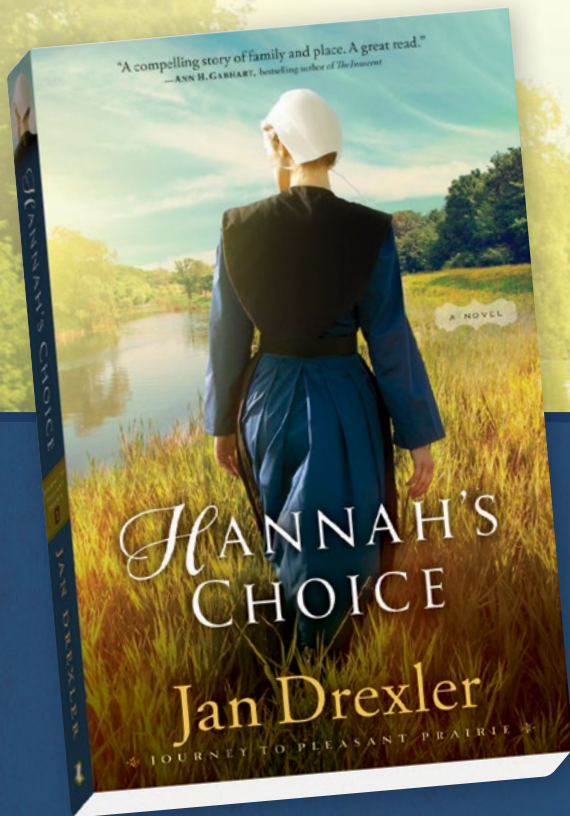
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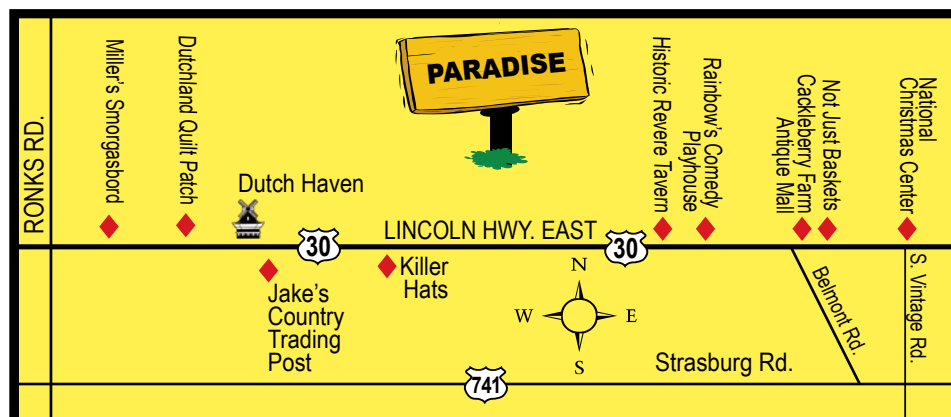
When two young men seek her hand in marriage—one offering the home she craves and the other promising the adventure of following God’s call west—Hannah must make a choice. Will she stay true to the faith of her family?

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Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now RT 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users.

Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike"). The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The "Lincoln Highway" (RT 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh! Susanna." Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm! 

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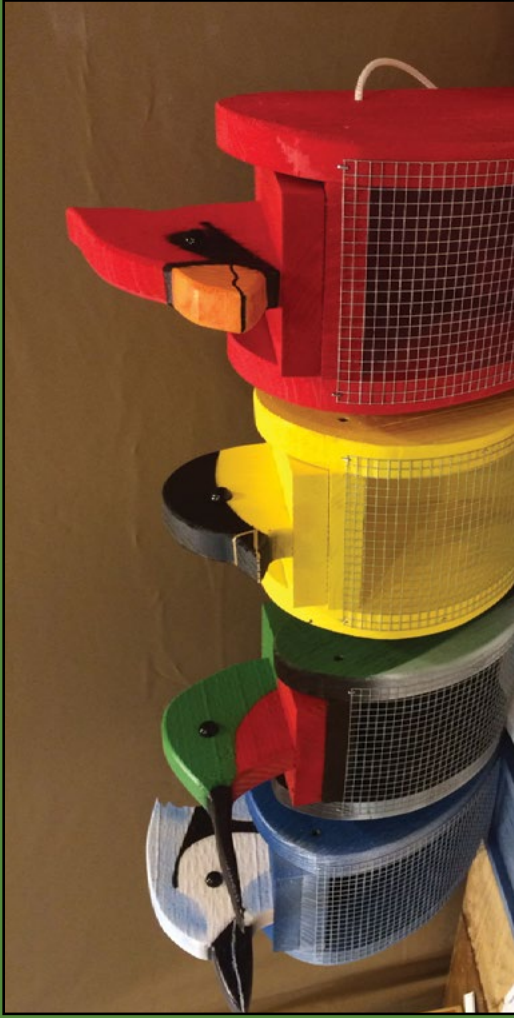
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Of Cows and Quilts at Esh Handmade Quilts

By Clinton Martin

Drive down the right back road in Amish Country and you're bound to see a few endearing sights... horse-drawn buggies, one-room schools, and of course quilts waving in the breeze on wash lines.

Drive down Route 340, just east of the village of Intercourse, and you'll see an Amish farmhouse with quilts hanging on the porch and above the old water pump. This is a working Amish dairy farm that also happens to have a nice, non-commercial shop nestled between the house and barn. This is the Esh family dairy farm's quilt and craft shop.

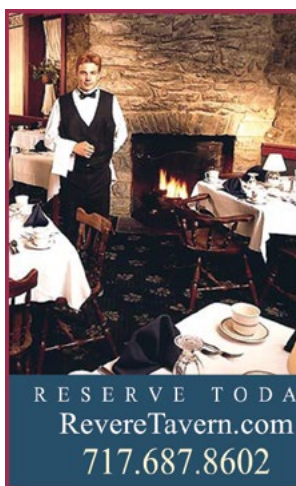


The quaint shop at Esh's is on the family's dairy farm, right next to the barn.

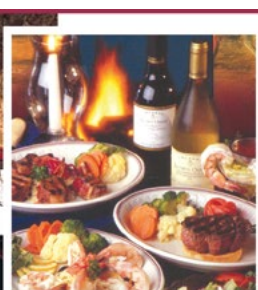
The Esh Family Farm has roots that go back to 1923, when Jacob's great-grandfather purchased the farm, now home to Jacob, Anna, and their seven children. Holstein cows have been milked here ever since the farm was purchased, with alfalfa hay and corn grown to feed the approximately 60 head of dairy cows.

Around 1980, Rebecca Esh and her daughter started piecing and stitching handmade quilts. That was the beginning of Esh Handmade Quilts, and they have since sold thousands of quilts to visitors from all over the United States, Europe, South Africa, Australia, and other regions around the world. One of their quilts was actually ordered and sent on to President and Mrs. George Bush at the White House!

The all-authentic quilts come in various sizes, from crib to king. Esh Handmade Quilts is open Monday through Saturday from 9am to 6pm at 3829 Old Philadelphia Pike, Gordonville PA. Call 717-768-8435. You'll definitely want to discover this country gem for yourself! 



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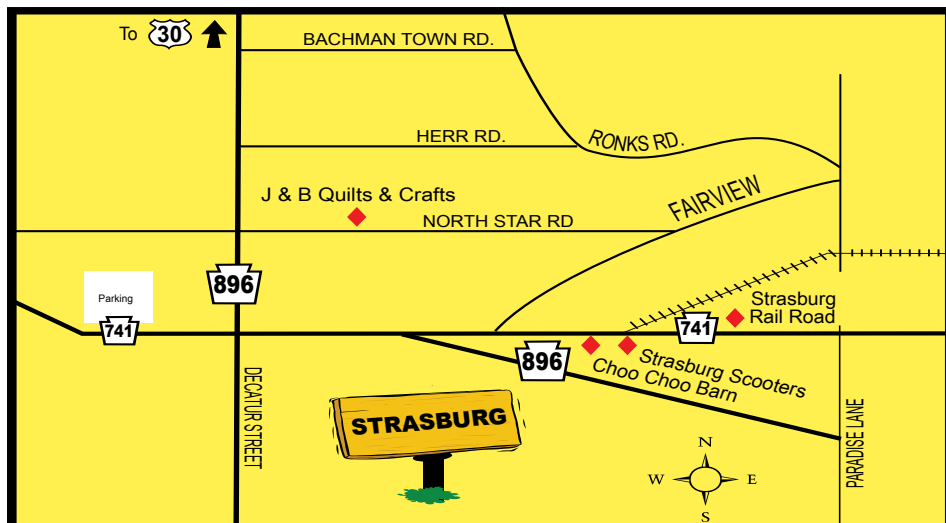
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Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.



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As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line

connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 🚂



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Enjoy Your Patio, Yard, or Porch Again with Jake's Country Trading Post

By Clinton Martin

Spring! It has finally arrived! The snow is gone! Time to get outside and enjoy our yard, patio, and porch spaces. Amish craftsmen in Lancaster County might be known for quilts, crafts, cedar chests, and those barn stars, but there's also a robust local industry among these Amish cottage industries making sturdy outdoor furniture.

Made from recycled plastics, these "Poly" pieces are not hewn from traditional lumber, rather they are built using an extremely long-lasting and weather-resistant "green" material. Jake's Country Trading Post (www.jakeshomeaccents.com) comes as a highly recommended shop for this unique locally-made product.

Jake's Country Trading Post has over 15,000 square feet of indoor shopping space, with home décor, fashionable apparel, sports and "guy stuff," candles, pottery and a whole lot more. But outside on the spacious lawn is an outdoor "showroom" of sorts that is full of not only many varieties of Poly Furniture, but also garden décor, fountains and concrete accents, and patio flair.

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Publisher's Message



By Brad Igou

It sounded like a freight train. That's the common description you hear when people describe the impending sound of a tornado. And an unusual February freight train roared through eastern Lancaster on Wednesday, February 24th of this year. The 8:00pm train made stops along a quarter mile wide, six-mile long path from Gap to White Horse, moving at speeds of up to 125mph. Along the way some 50 homes and barns were damaged, and an Amish schoolhouse leveled, with books, desks, and debris scattered across the farmland.

The rare February tornado produced about \$8 million in damage. Amazingly, there were no injuries, largely because non-Amish neighbors, upon hearing the alerts from the National Weather Service, were quick to inform their Amish friends who, of course, were without the benefit of radio or TV alerts.

Clean-up and repairs began the very next day, with volunteers arriving at the damaged properties. The James Eby farm lost two large chicken houses, and dozens of Amish neighbors came to retrieve some of the surviving 30,000 egg-laying hens. Said Eby, "An army of people arrived in the morning to clean up and they haven't stopped."

Other volunteers came to erect roofs and walls on houses and buildings, remove debris, and start building a new schoolhouse. Mennonite Disaster Relief and the White Horse Fire Company were helping with aid and accepting donations. On Friday, the fire company prepared food for 300 volunteers, which was distributed to six worksites.

Monday of the following week, we took a drive through the area, and it was amazing to see so many volunteers still working on buildings, with their carriages, cars, and trucks side by side in driveways and along the road.



A house that had lost its roof was covered. Walls to a home had been rebuilt, already up to the second floor. New barn siding had been replaced where old had blown away. A new school was remarkably already well along the way to completion. Children were attending school in the meantime at a nearby farm.

We came upon a line of carriages parked in a field, with a white tent at the far end. Inside the tent were the horses, probably there to provide some shelter from the elements as the men were working at nearby properties. Local media reported that 85% of the work would be done by March 5. Without the estimated 1,000 volunteers, it would have taken three to four months.

Certainly one of the most heartwarming aspects of living in Amish Country is witnessing so many people of different lifestyles and faiths, working together, helping their neighbors (and often strangers) when disaster strikes. Even the local volunteer fire companies, famed for their fundraiser dinners and auctions, are an eclectic mix of people, joined together in a common cause.

In a political season in which the rhetoric often seems to be one of degrading others, raising fears, and creating divisiveness in the process, it is a joy to see very different people getting along, working hand-in-hand, without ever questioning or trying to change the other to their way of thinking. Respect, selfless giving, and quiet, collaborative hard work would make a pretty good "platform" for any political candidate as far as I am concerned.

Years ago I remember talking to a tour guide friend who was then living near the area of these recent tornadoes. He told me about the time his house had burned down. I'll never forget his comment concerning the Amish. "They were the first ones to arrive, and the last ones to leave." I'm guessing there are many echoing his words these days following the February tornado. 

AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

PO Box 414 • Bird-in-Hand • PA 17505
717.768.8400, Ext. 218
www.AmishNews.com

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2015 Amish Country News Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to our 2015 Amish Country News Photo Contest Winners! Start taking your photos now for our 2016 Photo Contest!



Grand Prize I took this photo one fine spring day in early May. I was sitting along the road enjoying some fresh air, when the young man and his team came right down the road by me. I thought maybe I should move, but I wasn't in the way. I used my Canon T3i at f/6.0, 1/200 of a second and ISO 100. My zoom lens was at about 106mm.

Mike Johnson, Wallingford CT



Second Place We were at the Strasburg Rail Road, enjoying a vacation day in May. Obviously, an Amish family was doing the same! **Richard Livesay, Franklin VA**



First Place I took this photo from my cell phone. We were near the town of Bird-in-Hand. It was on one of my summer weekends in Lancaster with my mother.

Sherra Gensel, Netcong NJ



Third Place I call this photo, "Church is over. Heading home!" It is one of my favorite photos snapped near my home in Lancaster County. It has actually been published in the book FOUR SEASONS OF LANCASTER, Masthof Press.

Ray Smecker, Churchtown PA



Deadline: Dec 31, 2016

Calling All Photographers!

2016 Amish Country News Photo Contest

All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes. Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should be the highest resolution and contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included. To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2016 photo contest" in the subject line)



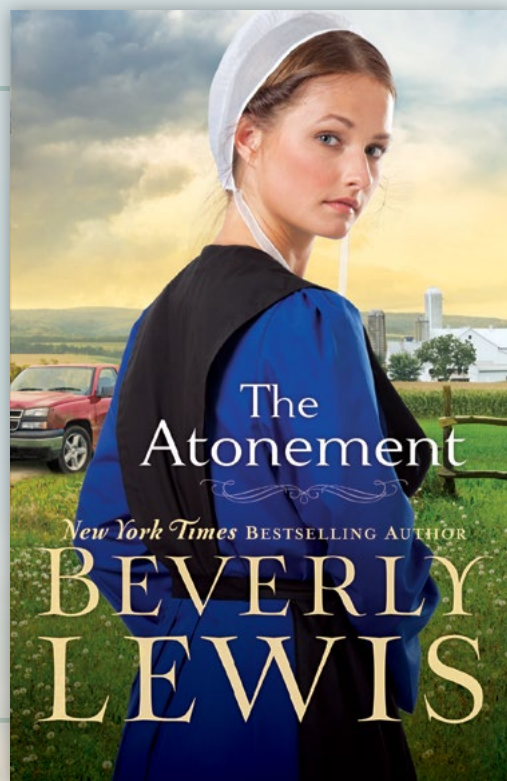
Honorable Mention I took this photo in the Ronks area, though most people would recognize nearby Bird-in-Hand more readily. I'm so excited to be able to share one of my favorite photos with everyone. **Jennifer Herr, East Brady PA.**

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